

ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
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July 30, 2015

The Honorable Ernest Moniz
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Moniz:

On July 14, the Department of Energy (DOE) released a document to support a procurement contract for “Pilot Interim Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel.”¹ The “Sources Sought Notice” seeks to determine the feasibility of small business set-asides to “develop a generic design for one or more (used fuel) interim storage facilities (ISF) to include the necessary components to support large-scale transport of nuclear fuel.”²

The Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) prohibits DOE from licensing an interim storage site until a license for the construction of a repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, has been issued by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.³ Since DOE has abandoned the licensing process for Yucca Mountain, activities to support interim storage facilities are difficult to justify in the absence of a legal pathway to license and construct such a facility.

To provide a greater understanding regarding DOE’s planned nuclear waste management activities, please respond to the following questions by August 13, 2015:

1. Under what legislative authority is DOE pursuing this procurement?
2. When does DOE plan to issue the solicitation references in the “Sources Sought Notice?”

¹ Department of Energy, “Opportunity: Pilot Interim Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel,” DE-SOL-0008687, July 14, 2015. Accessible at:
https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=f911b19ef26e2524a6663fc420136bac&tab=core&_cvi=0

² DE-SOL-0008687, “Sources Sought Notice”

³ Nuclear Waste Policy Act, 31 USC 10101.

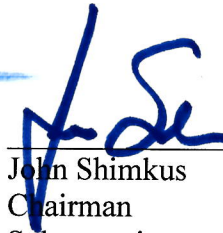
3. How much money is DOE spending on a pilot interim storage program in the current fiscal year?
4. How much does DOE plan to spend on the procurement total?

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Andy Zach of the committee staff at (202) 225-2927.

Sincerely,



Fred Upton
Chairman



John Shimkus
Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment and
Economy